

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Program evaluation is one of the three major elements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). The statute calls for agencies to use program evaluations to assess the manner and extent to which Federal programs achieve intended objectives. The statute further calls for agency Performance Plans to include a summary of the findings of program evaluations completed in the fiscal year covered in the report. Finally, the GPRA calls for a schedule for future program evaluations to be presented in Strategic Plans.

We present detailed descriptions of DOT's completed program evaluations in "The Department of Transportation Performance and Accountability Report for 2002."¹¹ To the extent that the results of completed program evaluations illuminated how we might achieve future goals or address future conditions, we considered these results in writing the strategies we selected to achieve strategic objectives and outcomes in this Strategic Plan. Generally, however, completed program evaluations are most valuable in making year-to-year adjustments in program management.

Table 7 below presents a schedule for future program evaluations at DOT. These evaluations represent a cross-section of DOT programs that must be well-managed in full support of budget-performance integration.

¹¹<http://www.dot.gov/perfacc2002/toc.html>

Table 7. Program Evaluations for Fiscal Years 2003-2008

Program Evaluation	Strategic Goals					OE	Methodology	Scope	FY Completed
	S	M	G	E	S				
Free Flight (FAA)		X	X				Combination	Evaluation of Free Flight Phase I tools' effectiveness in creating additional capacity, and in making more efficient use of existing capacity	2003
Innovative Finance Techniques (FHWA, FTA, and FRA in 2004 only)		X				X	Longitudinal & Cross-Sectional	Evaluation of specific techniques 2 to 4 years after implementation	2003-2005

LegendStrategic Objective

S Safety
M Mobility
G Global Integration
E Environment
S Security

OE Organizational Excellence

Methodology

Longitudinal Study of data points or data series before and after intervention
Cross Sectional Study of different groups or sites at the same point in time
Statistical Regression or other statistical analysis
Combination Use of two or more complementary analytic techniques
Management Process evaluation using objective measurement and analysis
Cost-Benefit Comparison of a program's outputs or outcomes with the costs to produce them

Table 7. Program Evaluations for Fiscal Years 2003-2008 (Continued)

Program Evaluation	Strategic Goals					O E	Methodology	Scope	FY Completed
	S	M	G	E	S				
Compliance Review Impact Assessment Model (FMCSA)	X						Longitudinal	Refine and update model measuring effectiveness of motor carrier compliance reviews in reducing crashes	2003 refreshed annually
Roadside Inspection/Traffic Enforcement Analytical Model (FMCSA)	X						Longitudinal	Update model measuring safety impact of traffic enforcement and roadside inspections on motor carrier safety	2003 refreshed annually

Table 7. Program Evaluations for Fiscal Years 2003-2008 (Continued)

Program Evaluation	Strategic Goals					O E	Methodology	Scope	FY Completed
	S	M	G	E	S				
Chemical/Biological Agent Detection (FTA)					X		Combination	Evaluate the R&D of and use for chemical, biological and explosives detection systems in transportation systems	2003
Continuity of Operations Plans (RSPA)		X					Management Study	Obtaining government-wide information on the status of agencies' continuity of operations plans	2003
Hazmat Approvals Process (RSPA)	X					X	Management Study/ Cost Benefit	Efficiencies to shorten process time; use of eGov solutions	2004
Hazmat Grants Program (RSPA)	X					X	Cost Benefit/ Cross Sectional/ Management Study	Program effectiveness; Leverage value	2003
UTC Program (RSPA)	X	X				X	Management Study	Assess how effectively the UTC Program is meeting program objectives, and RSPA's effectiveness in managing the program	2003
Ship Disposal Program (MARAD)				X			Combination	Evaluate effectiveness of ship scrapping efforts	2004
CR Process Evaluation Phase II (FMCSA)	X					X	Management Study	Examine alternative approaches to achieving compliance	2004
Evaluation of State Motor Fuel Data (FHWA)		X	X			X	Management Study	Evaluate internal process for allocation of funding based on motor fuel data	2004

Table 7. Program Evaluations for Fiscal Years 2003-2008 (Continued)

Program Evaluation	Strategic Goals					O E	Methodology	Scope	FY Completed
	S	M	G	E	S				
Data Quality Reviews (BTS)						X	Combination	A selection of 5-7 assessments to improve the reliability, accuracy and relevance of DOT component agencies' data programs	2003-2008
Information Security (FAA)					X		Combination	Evaluate the effectiveness of FAA's IT and INFOSEC processes	2004
Hazmat Training/ Outreach (RSPA)	X						Longitudinal/ Cost Benefit/ Management Study	Evaluate a specific area of hazmat transportation compliance before and after a period of targeted outreach and compliance	2005
Equal Employment Opportunity Complaints Process (Office of Civil Rights)						X	Management Study	Evaluate DOT's EEO complaints processing procedures and practices (internal)	2004
Condition and Performance Report (FHWA)		X	X				Cost Benefit	Analyze highway, bridge, transit needs and investment requirements and examine issues pertaining to these requirements	Biannual 2004 2006 2008
ITS Deployment (FHWA)		X	X				Combination	Evaluate ITS deployment sites	2004
Assessment of Design-Build Contracting (FHWA)		X	X				Combination	Evaluate effectiveness of the design-build concept	2004

Table 7. Program Evaluations for Fiscal Years 2003-2008 (Continued)

Program Evaluation	Strategic Goals					O E	Methodology	Scope	FY Completed
	S	M	G	E	S				
Assessment of the Innovative Bridge Research and Construction Program (FHWA)		X					Combination	Evaluate the effectiveness of the IBRC Program on bridge longevity, cost, etc.	2004
Operations Investments by Local Government (FHWA)		X					Management Study	Assessment of local government investment strategies in ITS Operations	2005
Side Impact Protection (NHTSA)	X						Statistical (Crash Data)	Evaluate the fatality and injury reducing benefits, and costs of side impact protection implemented in passenger cars since model year 1994	2005
Hazmat Enforcement (RSPA)	X						Longitudinal/ Cost Benefit/ Management Study	Before/After comparison of awareness	2006
Alternative Dispute Resolution Process Evaluation (General Counsel)						X	Management Study	Follow up study to determine service quality, growth in use of alternative dispute resolution process, and cost-effectiveness	2005
Effective-ness of Planning Capacity Building Initiative Activities (FHWA)				X		X	Management Study	Evaluate the effectiveness of program activities in addressing customer needs e.g., providing timely services	2005
Title VI Complaints Process (Office of Civil Rights)						X	Management Study	Evaluate the processing of civil rights complaints filed against providers of federally-assisted transportation services (external)	2005

Table 7. Program Evaluations for Fiscal Years 2003-2008 (Continued)

Program Evaluation	Strategic Goals					O E	Methodology	Scope	FY Complete
	S	M	G	E	S				
Hazmat Air Transportation (FAA)	X						Combination	Review of safety effectiveness of FAA's hazmat safety program	2005
DOT R&D Strategic Plan Process (RSPA)						X	Management Study	Evaluate DOT's R&D strategic planning process, and effectiveness in implementing the DOT Research, Development and Technology Plan	2005
Bus Crash Causation Study (FMCSA)	X						Combination	Study of factors contributing to bus crashes	2005
Large Truck Crash Causation Study (FMCSA)	X						Combination	Comprehensive study to determine causal and contributing factors for crashes involving commercial motor vehicles	2005
Commercial Drivers License Evaluation (FMCSA)	X						Combination	Baseline evaluation of commercial drivers license program	2005
Grade Crossing Warning Device Installation Study (FRA)	X						Combination	Analyze the effectiveness of the various types of automatic warning devices in preventing highway-rail grade crossing collisions.	2005

Table 7. Program Evaluations for Fiscal Years 2003-2008 (Continued)

Program Evaluation	Strategic Objectives					O E	Methodology	Scope	FY Complete
	S	M	G	E	S				
Facility Security (FAA)					X		Combination	Review effectiveness of FAA's facility physical security program	2006
UTC Program (RSPA)	X	X				X	Management Study	Assess how effectively the UTC Program is meeting program objectives and requirements and the Department's effectiveness in managing the program	2006
Hazmat R&D (RSPA)	X				X		Cost Benefit/ Management Study	Evaluate the effectiveness of hazmat safety/security R&D	2007
New Entrant Safety Audit Evaluation (FMCSA)	X						Longitudinal	Examine operational performance, develop metrics, and assess new program impact.	2006
Public Education and Enforcement Railroad Safety (FRA)	X						Combination	Analyze the long term effectiveness of education and enforcement programs in preventing highway-rail collisions.	2006
Cost Allocation Study (FHWA)		X	X				Combination	Evaluates highway user charges based on equity and economic principles.	2006
Impact of FHWA Safety Goals and Objectives (FHWA)	X						Combination	Evaluate the effectiveness of strategies and initiatives to achieve the VF Safety objectives	2006
Con- sideration of Manage- ment and Operations in the Planning Process (FHWA)		X					Management Study	Assess the effectiveness of including operations as a planning factor in STIP/TIP development	2006

Table 7. Program Evaluations for Fiscal Years 2003-2008 (Continued)

Program Evaluation	Strategic Goals					O E	Methodology	Scope	FY Completed
	S	M	G	E	S				
Operational Error Programs (FAA)	X						Longitudinal	Evaluate program effectiveness designed to reduce operational errors	2007
NAFTA Border Safety Audit Evaluation (FMCSA)	X						Longitudinal	Establish performance measures and assess the effectiveness of new border safety audits on highway safety	2007
Safer Skies (FAA)	X		X				Combination	General Aviation – loss of control, survivability or aeronautical decision making interventions	2007
Advanced Air Bags (Phase 1) (NHTSA)	X						Statistical analysis of crash data	Evaluation of the crash performance, fatality-reducing benefits and costs of advanced air bag systems implemented in passenger cars and light trucks since model year 2003	2008
Aircraft Delay Reduction Program (FAA)		X					Cost-Benefit	Evaluate impacts, costs, and benefits of FAA's delay reduction program	2008